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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD AND DEVICE FOR WELDING SHEETS**

the specification of which

(Check        is attached hereto.  
one)

x was filed on February 15, 2000

as Application Serial No. PCT/CH00/00086

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §§1.56 and 1.63(d).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's or plant breeder's right certificate(s), or 365 (a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for

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patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

		<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes/No
PCT/CH00/00086 PCT 423/99	Switzerland	15 February 2000 8 March 1999	YES YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §§1.56 and 1.63(d) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby appoint Donald K. Huber, Registration No. 18,686; Theodore R. Paulding, Registration No. 19,294; John C. Hilton, Registration No. 22,965; Frederick J. Haesche, Registration No. 24,529; John C. Linderman, Registration No. 24,420; J. Kevin Grogan, Registration No. 31,961; Arthur F. Dionne, Registration No. 23,093; Daniel G. Mackas, Registration No. 38,541; Richard R. Michaud, Registration No. 40,088; Marina F. Cunningham, Registration No. 38,419; Susan C. Oygard, Registration No. 42,969; Nicholas J. Tuccillo, Registration No. 44,322; Stephen P. Scuderi, Registration No. 42,136; Wm. Tucker Griffith, Registration No. 44,726; Mary-Jacq Holroyd, Registration No. 41,846; Shirley S. Ma, Registration No. 44,216; Richard D. Getz, Registration No. 36,147; Donald J. MacDonald, Registration No. 42,823, and William B. Gowanlock, Registration No. 41,794, all of the firm of McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP, CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-4102, telephone (860) 549-5290, as my attorneys to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and all

correspondence relating to this application, and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and the said attorneys are hereby given full power of substitution and revocation.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Romeo BUCHER

Full name of sole or first inventor



Inventor's Signature

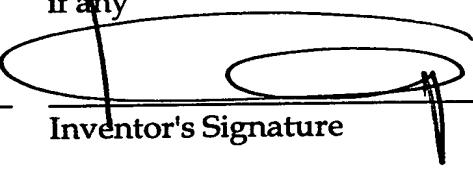
August 20, 2001      Swiss  
Date                      Citizenship

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Residence Address

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Post Office Address

Bruno KAEGI

Full name of second joint inventor,  
if any

  
Inventor's Signature

August 20, 2001      Swiss  
Date                      Citizenship

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CH-8608 Bubikon  
Residence Address

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Post Office Address



DECEMBER 15, 2001

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Under Secretary of Commerce For Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

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ASSIGNOR:

BUCHER, ROMEO

DOC DATE: 04/23/2001

ASSIGNOR:

KAEGI, BRUNO

DOC DATE: 04/23/2001

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PATENT NUMBER:

ISSUE DATE:

PCT NUMBER: CH0000086

TARA WASHINGTON, EXAMINER  
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

## ASSIGNMENT

THIS INSTRUMENT OF ASSIGNMENT WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, we,	Romeo BUCHER	and	Bruno KAEGI
residents of	Hornsbergstrasse 8 8248 Uhwiesen Switzerland	and	Dorfstrasse 4 8608 Bubikon Switzerland

respectively, have invented improvements in

### METHOD AND DEVICE FOR WELDING SHEETS

for which we have executed on even date herewith an application for Letters Patent of the United States, and

WHEREAS, ELPATRONIC AG

a corporation of Switzerland

having a place of business at Industriestrasse 35, 8962 Bergdietikon, Switzerland

is desirous of acquiring an interest in said invention, said application and the Letters Patent to be issued therefor;

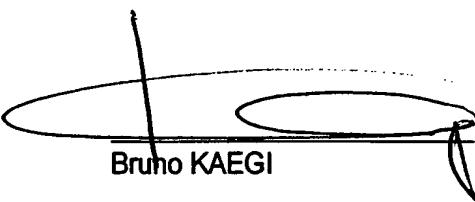
NOW, THEREFORE, to all whom it may concern, be it known that for and in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR to each in hand paid and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we have sold, assigned and set over, and do hereby sell, assign and set over to said corporation, its successors or assigns, the entire right, title and interest to and in said invention in the United States and in all foreign countries, said United States application for Letters Patent therefor and the Letters Patent when issued; and we do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks to issue the Letters Patent based upon said application to said corporation as the assignees of our entire right, title and interest to and in the same, for the sole use and behoof of said corporation, its successors or assigns.

And we also hereby covenant and agree to sign all proper papers including divisional and other applications for patents and assignments thereof in the United States and application for patents and assignments in all foreign countries, and to execute all rightful oaths and to take any other proper action that may in the judgment of the said corporation be necessary for securing thereto full rights to said invention, all of the foregoing to be at the expense of said corporation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seal this  
23rd day of April 2001.



Romeo BUCHER



Bruno KAEGI